## Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 CG-00 DLOS-06 DOTE-00 H-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 /058 W
------042230Z 029745 /67

O R 042202Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6629 INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAN JOSE 0918

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, PFOR, CS

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT CLEARANCE FOR TUNA ENFORCEMENT

REF: STATE 047616 (NOTAL)

- 1. BEFORE APPROACHING THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT FOR PERMISSION TO OPERATE U.S. AIRCRAFT OUT OF SAN JOSE FOR THE PURPOSE OF AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF U.S. TUNA FISHING OPERATIONS INVOLVING SETTING ON PORPOISE, THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE THE PROBABLE COSTA RICAN REACTION.
- 2. THERE HAS BEEN GROWING PUBLIC INTEREST AND GOVERNMENT CONCERN IN COSTA RICA IN RECENT MONTHS ABOUT FOREIGN FISHING BOATS FISHING WITHOUT A PERMIT ALLEGEDLY WITHIN COSTA RICA'S 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE OR EVEN WITHIN ITS 12-MILE LIMIT. SUCH BOATS MAY BE FISHING FOR TUNA OR OTHER SPECIES OF FISH OR SHELLFISH.
- 3. THE EMBASSY ANTICIPATES THAT THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO A REQUEST TO OPERATE AERIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SURVEILLANCE OUT OF SAN JOSE OF U.S. FISHING OPERATIONS WOULD BE TO REQUEST THAT COSTA RICAN OBSERVERS BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE. THEIR PRIME OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO OBTAIN FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON FISHING VESSELS OPERATING WITHOUT LICENSES - SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO BEFORE. THE COSTA RICANS MIGHT WELL ASK THAT THE SURVEILLANCE INCLUDE ALL NON-COSTA

RICAN FISHING BOATS OPERATING WITHIN COSTA RICA'S 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE.

- 4. UNLESS THE USG IS PREPARED TO ACCEDE TO ANTICIPATED GOCR REQUESTS, EMBASSY WOULD ADVISE AGAINST ASKING GOCR FOR PERMISSION TO CONDUCT SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS OUT OF SAN JOSE.
- 5. IF HONORING ANTICIPATED GOCR REQUEST WOULD BE INADVISABLE, DEPARTMENT AND COMMERCE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE OF CONDUCTING THE AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS OUT OF THE U.S. BASE IN THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE. IN SUCH A CASE, IT WOULD APPEAR TO US THAT NO CLEARANCE FROM COSTA RICAN AUTHORITIES WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR FLIGHTS THAT DID NOT PENETRATE THE LIMITS OF COSTA RICAN AIR SPACE WHICH EXTEND OUT TO THE 12-MILE LIMIT. KILDAY

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

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